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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Carson Announces \$565,000 Community Health Center  
Grant for Tishomingo  
New Center to Provide Comprehensive and Preventive Health Services  
to Johnston County Residents***

Washington, D.C. --

Second District Congressman Brad Carson (D) announced today that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded a \$565,750 grant to the Family Health Center of Southern Oklahoma for the development of a Community Health Center in Tishomingo. The Community Health Center will provide comprehensive and preventive health care services to underinsured and uninsured Johnston County residents. The new center will work in conjunction with the local hospital and with the Chickasaw Nation in the delivery of health services. This funding will allow the health center to provide services to approximately 4,000 residents.

"I am incredibly pleased and excited to announce this award," Congressman Brad Carson said. "The Community Health Center will greatly expand the opportunity for many residents to have access to preventive and primary health care. This grant award is the result of the community's determination and commitment to fostering an improved quality of life."

The Community Health Center program was developed in the mid-1960s to provide accessible, affordable personal health care services to rural and urban medically underserved communities. Community Health Centers also serves as a catalyst for economic development, and assuring the presence of health professionals and facilities in underserved areas.

Congressman Brad Carson worked closely with the Family Health Center of Southern Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Primary Care Association, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In a letter to Dr. Elizabeth Duke, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the administering agency of the Community Health Center Program, Congressman Carson expressed his full support for this application.

“The Community Health Center program has existed for nearly forty years, however, Oklahoma has never taken full advantage of the program,” Congressman Brad Carson said. “I have made it a top priority of my tenure in Congress to expand this program to communities across Oklahoma, and I look forward to continuing to work to increase access to quality health care for our state.”

In 2002, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced a five-year initiative to expand the health center network to add 1,200 new and expanded health center sites. The Community Health Center in Tishomingo is the second center Congressman Carson has assisted to establish under this new initiative; in 2002, the town of Hulbert, located in Cherokee County, was awarded funding for a health center. Congressman Carson’s goal is to eventually see every county in his Congressional District have access to a community health center.

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